

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~An information provision~~ A method of providing ~~information from a server to a broadcast receiver, comprising the steps of:~~  
~~receiving, from the broadcast receiver, broadcast station identification information for~~  
~~identifying a currently received broadcast station from a broadcast receiver;~~  
~~receiving, from an external server, state information which indicates a state of a~~  
~~service for providing information concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said~~  
~~identification information; and~~  
~~transmitting to said broadcast receiver, said received state information which indicates~~  
~~states of an information provision service concerning said broadcast station corresponding to~~  
~~said broadcast station identification information and an address corresponding to said~~  
~~information provision service after receiving said identification information from said~~  
~~broadcast receiver and said state information from said external server to said broadcast~~  
~~receiver.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~information provision~~ method according to claim 1, wherein

~~said transmitting provides transmission step transmits~~ said state information and said address to said broadcast receiver at least when said information provision service is available.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~information provision~~ method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~the step of~~ performing an information provision service by transmitting information about said information provision service to said broadcast receiver in accordance with access to said address from said broadcast receiver.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~information provision~~ method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~transmission step transmits transmitting provides~~ additional information corresponding to said ~~broadcast station~~ identification information as well as said state information to said broadcast receiver.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~information provision~~ method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~transmission step transmits transmitting provides~~ said state information provided by a content server providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver and uses an address provision server to transmit an address of said content server providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~information provision~~ method according to claim 1, wherein

[[a]] said server [[to]] provide provides information about said information provision service receives request information which requests information about said information provision service and a service session ID equivalent to a session ID associated with said server, transmitted from said broadcast receiver based on said address;

said server performs an authentication process based on said service session ID and, when an authentication error occurs, transmits information indicating the authentication error and identification information for identifying said server to said broadcast receiver;

an authentication server receives authentication ticket issuance request information which requests to issue an authentication ticket for access to said server as well as an authentication session ID equivalent to a session ID associated with said authentication server, from said broadcast receiver;

said authentication server authenticates said authentication session ID, when granting an authentication, issues an authentication ticket, and transmits said issued authentication ticket to said broadcast receiver;

said server receives said authentication ticket transmitted from said broadcast receiver and transmits said received authentication ticket to said authentication server;

said authentication server, when authenticating said received authentication ticket to be valid, transmits information indicating authentication permission to said server;

said server receives said information indicating authentication permission, issues a service session ID as a session ID associated with said broadcast receiver, and transmits said issued service session ID to said broadcast receiver;

said server receives said request information as well as said service session ID from said broadcast receiver; and

said server performs an authentication process based on said service session ID and, when granting an authentication, transmits associated information corresponding to said request information to said broadcast receiver.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An information provision apparatus comprising:  
reception means for receiving, from a broadcast receiver broadcast station  
identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station ~~from a~~  
~~broadcast receiver and for receiving, from an external server, state information which~~

indicates a state of a service for providing information concerning said broadcast station  
corresponding to said identification information; and  
  
transmission means for transmitting to said broadcast receiver, said received state  
information which indicates states of an information provision service concerning said  
broadcast station corresponding to said broadcast station identification information and an  
address corresponding to said information provision service after receiving said identification  
information from said broadcast receiver and said state information from said external server  
to said broadcast receiver.

Claim 8 (Original): The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits said state information and said address to said broadcast receiver at least when said information provision service is available.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an information provision service execution means for performing an information provision service by transmitting information about said information provision service to said broadcast receiver in accordance with access to said address from said broadcast receiver.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits additional information corresponding to said broadcast station identification information as well as said state information to said broadcast receiver.

Claim 11 (Original): The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits said state information provided by a content server providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver and uses an address provision server to transmit an address of said content server providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium encoded with computer program instructions executable by a computer to implement a method of information processing, comprising: An information provision program allowing an information processing apparatus to perform the steps of:

receiving, from the broadcast receiver, broadcast station identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station from a broadcast receiver;

receiving, from an external server, state information which indicates a state of a service for providing information concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said identification information; and

transmitting to said broadcast receiver, said received state information which indicates states of an information provision service concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said broadcast station identification information and an address corresponding to said information provision service after receiving said identification information from said broadcast receiver and said state information from said external server, to said broadcast receiver.

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (New): An information provision apparatus, comprising:

    a reception interface to receive, from a broadcast receiver identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station and for receiving, from an external server, state information which indicates a state of a service for providing information concerning said broadcast station corresponding to said identification information; and

    a transmitter to transmit to said broadcast receiver, said received state information and an address corresponding to said service after receiving said identification information from said broadcast receiver and said state information from said external server.